POL 14 VIETS (965)

Department of State TELEGRAM

XR POL 13-2 VIETS

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAIGON 04785 022051Z

41
ACTION EA-10

INFO OPR-03 SC-01 RSC-01 USIA-12 H-02 NSC-10 NSAE-00 L-03 INR-07 P-04
CIA-04 DOD-01 SP-02 SS-35 CU-04 SAL-01 RSR-01 /110 W

R 021212Z ASEP 67
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6078
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 4064
CINCPAC
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 2375
AMCONSUL DANANG 861

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Dan Isenberg DATE 12/23/81
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. RMS (N,S)
ENDORSE EXCISE MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFY ☑ RELEASE ☑
RELEASE DENIED ☐
CITATION OF EXEMPTIONS

CONFIDENTIAL SAIGON

SUBJ: YOUTH, STUDENTS AND ELECTIONS

REF: SAIGON 2862; A-104

1. SAIGON STUDENTS UNION (SSU) HAS TAKEN A STRONG POSITION AGAINST ELECTION RIGGING, AND IS PLANNING DEMONSTRATIONS IF THEIRU-KY LSATE ELECTED.

2. IN AUGUST 28 PRESS CONFERENCE SSU COUNCIL OF REPRESENTATIVES AND PERMANENT COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY (A) DELCARED COMPLEE IMPARTIALITY IN COMING ELECTIONS, (B) DEMANDED THAT "GOVERNMENT AND ALL OTHER FORCES IMMEDIATELY STOP ALL FORMS OF FRAUD IN THE ELECTION", (C) DEMANDED THAT "ALL SAIGON STUDENTS WILL HAVE A STRONG POSITION AGAINST ELECTION FRAUD", AND (D) ANNOUNCED FORMATION OF "STUDENT

PAGE TWO RUMJIR 4785 C O N F I D E N T I A L
COMMITTEE AGAINST ELECTORAL FRAUD".

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PAGE 02 SAIGON 04785 02205IZ

3. AUGUST 31 VIETNAM PRESS REPORTED THAT COMMITTEE HAD BEEN NAMED AND HAD ISSUED COMMUNIQUE INVITING STUDENTS AND PEOPLE IN ALL WALKS OF LIFE TO COOPERATE BY PPOVIDING PERSONNEL AND DOCUMENTS SO IT CAN BEGIN ITS ACTIVITIES.

4. SSU APPARENTLY DOES NOT PLAN SYSTEMATIC POLL-WATCHING, BUT WILL TAKE NOTE OF COMPLAINTS BY CANDIDATES' REPRESENTATIVES AT THE POLLS. ALTHOUGH ABOVE DECLARATION AND SSU OFFICIALS COMMENTS TO EMBOFF DELIBERATELY VAGUE ON FORM OPPOSITION TO ELECTORAL FRAUD WILL TAKE, THEY HAVE TOLD OTHER AMERICANS THAT THEY PLANNING DEMONSTATIONS IF THIEU-KY ELECTED. THEY WILL REGARD THIEU-KY VICTORY AS PRIMA FACIE EVIDENCE OF FRAUD BECASE "THIEU AND KY DIDNT SHOW GOODWEILL AND MAKE SACRIFICES BY RESIGNING DURING THE CAMPAIGN". STUDENT LEADERS DO NOT THINK THEY CAN OVERTHROW GOVERNMENT BUT REGARD DEMONSTRATION AS MEANS OF MOBILIZING WORLD OPINION AGAINST GVN. THEY THINK SUCCESS OF DEMONSTRATION DEPENDS MAINLY ON WHETHER GVN REACTION IS HARSH, CREATING MARTYRS, OR RELATIVELY GENTLE, IN WHICH CASE DEMONSTATIONS WILL PETER OUT.

5. FORCE OF STUDENT PROTEST LIKELY TO BE AFFECTED BY SEVERAL FACTORS. ON ONE HAND, NOT ALL STUDENTS ARE CONVINCED IN ADVANCE THAT TELECTION S

PAGE THREE RUMJIR 785 C O N F I D E N T I A L
WILL BE RIGGED, THAT DEMONSTRATION WOULD SUCCEED IN CHANGING GOVERNMENT, OR THAT SUCH CHANGE WOULD BE IMPORVEMENT. MOREOVER, STUDENTS WILL BE ON SUMMER VACATION UNTIL OCT AND ARE NOW PROBABLY HARDER TO MOBILIZE THAN USUAL. ON OTHER HAND, RADICAL BUDDHISTS AND BACKERS OF POOR LOSERS COULD SWELL RANKS OF DEMONSTATORS.

6. SOME YOUTH LEADERS (AS OPPOSED TO STUDENT GROUPS MENTIONED ABOVE) SEEM TO BE TAKING SOMEWHAT LESS EXTEMEN VIEW. YOUTH COMMITTEE TO BUILD DEMOCRACY (YCBD) STILL PLANS TO SEND A FEW MOBILE TEAMS OUT TO PROVINCES TO MONITOR AND REPORT ON CONDUCT OF ELECTION. YCBD FINDINGS MAY AFFECT STRENGTH OF CRITICISM OF RESULTS BY STUDENTS AND OTHERS. HOWEVER, YOUTH LEADERS WOULD APPARENTLY PREFER THAT POSTELECTION ATMOSPHERE REMAIN COOL ENOUGH TO PERMIT FORMATION OF NATIONAL UNION GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING SOME LOSERS. SOME HAVE A PERSONAL STAKE IN THAT THEY ARE CANDIATES FOR THE LOWER HOUSE. THEY

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TNED TO THINK DEMONSTATIONS PROBABLY COUNTERPRODUCTIVE, AND REPORTEDLY DO NOT SUPPORT THEM AT THIS TIME.

7. WE IN TOUCH WITH STUDENT LEADERS AND WILL SEEK TO DISCOURAGE DEMONSTRATIONS.

GP-3 BUNKER

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